

Test Your Reading Skills

Meet Arnold Palmerstone - the most boring man on earth

A -

Hello there. My name is Arnold Palmerstone, and I work in a bank. I live in a small bungalow in Norwich with my wife Deirdre and our two daughters, Florence (who is eight) and Prudence (who is six). I get up every morning at six o'clock and do my daily exercises before breakfast. I like to keep fit because my job at the bank is very difficult and requires a lot of energy.

1. Where do I live?
a) Norwich b) Northampton c) The North Pole
2. What is my wife called?
a) Darlene b) Deidre c) Deborah
3. Why do I need to do my exercises every morning?
a) Because I'm training for the Olympics
b) Because my two daughters want me to keep fit
c) Because my job requires a lot of energy

B -

I have breakfast at six thirty with my wife, and I always say "good morning" to my daughters before I go to work. We have two cars - a bright red Mini and a blue Volkswagen Polo. My wife drives the Polo and I go to work in the Mini. My wife is a teacher in a primary school, which is about fifteen miles away. Florence and Prudence both go to the same school as her, so they can all travel together - which is nice.

1. What time do I have breakfast?
a) At seven o'clock b) At six thirty c) At six forty
2. What colour is my wife's car?
a) Blue b) Green c) Red
3. What job does my wife do?
a) She's a doctor
b) She teaches in a primary school
c) She teaches in a secondary school

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C -

It takes a long time to get to work. The traffic in Norwich is terrible! I hate traffic jams because you have to drive so slowly. Driving to work is so boring! When I get to work I hang up my coat on the usual hook and go into the staff canteen to make a cup of tea. I usually see my friends Rodney and Penelope in there and we chat about the weather. Rodney is a Customer Services Assistant and Penelope is one of our managers.

1. Why do I hate traffic jams?
 - a) Because they make you late for work
 - b) Because the traffic in our town is terrible
 - c) Because you have to drive so slowly
2. What drink do I make when I get to work?
 - a) A cup of tea
 - b) A cup of coffee
 - c) A large Malibu and lemonade
3. Rodney is one of our managers. True or false?
 - a) True
 - b) False

D -

I work in a small office with three other people - Brenda Smith, Mervin Holmes and Hank Dolomites. I spend all day working on my computer, sorting out credit card applications that have gone wrong. I don't work with the general public and I don't want to. I'm quite shy and don't like meeting new people. I have worked with Brenda and Mervin for about eight years now. Hank is the new boy - he joined the team eighteen months ago.

1. What are the names of the people that I work with?
 - a) Brenda, Mervin and Henry
 - b) Martin, Hank and Brenda
 - c) Brenda, Mervin and Hank
2. I work with the general public every day. True or false?
 - a) True
 - b) False

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3. Why don't I want to work with the general public?
- a) Because I don't think I could be polite all day
 - b) Because I'm quite shy and don't like meeting new people
 - c) Because I prefer working with Brenda, Mervin and Hank

E -

Yesterday was Brenda's fiftieth birthday. She brought in a cake that she'd made. It was very nice - I had two pieces. We all get on very well in our office. We have some fun but we work hard too. Sometimes I get carried away and am so busy on my computer I don't realise it's five o'clock and time to go home again. My wife Deidre is a wonderful cook, so I look forward to having my tea at six o'clock every evening. My life is quite a happy one really.

1. How old was Brenda yesterday?
- a) Fifty five
 - b) Fifty
 - c) Fifteen
2. My wife can't cook. True or false?
- a) True
 - b) False - she's a wonderful cook
 - c) She can cook beans on toast but that's all
3. On the whole, my life is quite...
- a) Happy
 - b) Lonely
 - c) Odd

Are these statements true or false?

- 1. I work in a supermarket
- 2. My daughters are called Florence and Prudence
- 3. My wife teaches in a school which is about ten miles away
- 4. It takes a long time to get to work
- 5. My friends at work are called Jeremy and Penelope
- 6. Penelope is a Customer Services Assistant
- 7. I work in a small office with four other people
- 8. I'm quite a shy person
- 9. Brenda is fifty years old
- 10. I have my tea at six thirty every evening

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Answers:

A1 a
A2 b
A3 c

B1 b
B2 a
B3 b

C1 c
C2 a
C3 b

D1 c
D2 b
D3 b

E1 b
E2 b
E3 a

1 false
2 true
3 false
4 true
5 false
6 false
7 false
8 true
9 true
10 false

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